

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Advisory Action issued by the Examiner on February 28, 2005. The Advisory Action allowed the Applicants to better understand the Examiner's basis for rejecting Applicants' claims.

From the Advisory Action, Applicants understand that the Examiner believes that Applicants are attempting to read in limitations from the specification into the claims. Applicants are not attempting to read in such limitations. Instead, Applicants are relying on the ordinary meaning of claim terms such as "rule" and "function."

From the Advisory Action, Applicants now understand that the Examiner does not believe that the provided ordinary meaning of the term "rule" is considered to be "objective factual evidence" or of "substantial evidential value." As a result, Applicants understand that the Examiner is reading the term "rule" much more broadly than Applicants.

In order to insure that Applicants and the Examiner both have the same understanding of the scope of a "rule," Applicants have included the previously provided ordinary meaning of the term "rule" in each independent claim. Thus, each independent claim now requires the use of a rule that defines a premise and a conclusion to be drawn if the premise is true. In addition, so as to avoid a similar difficulty with the term "function," Applicants have amended various claims to require the use of a subroutine as opposed to the use of a "function."

Applicants do not believe that any of the cited art, alone or in any combination, discloses the elements of the claims, as currently amended.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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